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DOGM
MINERALS PROGRAM
FILE COPY

August 10, 1989

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Holland Shepherd, Reclamation Soils Specialist ^{HOS}

RE: Field Inspection, Vanadium Queen Mine, S/037/061, San Juan County, Utah

I dropped by the Vanadium Queen mine site, briefly, on August 10, 1989. Steve McNeal, of the BWPC, asked me to drop by this site during my next inspection in the Moab area. I was interested in seeing how the operation's mine water pond was holding up. The pond had been constructed last spring of 1989, when the mine was reactivated. The operator had hastily constructed a small mine water pond. The pond was never permitted with the Bureau of Water Pollution Control (BWPC).

Because of the poor construction of the pond facility, and it's small size, it was not thought the pond would be able to hold up throughout the year. The pond, in fact, has not held up, it has been breached and water is flowing out of the pond now at the same rate as it is flowing in. When comparing the quality of the water that I observed last spring, and the quality of the water now, the water quality now, is far superior; the water is clear and appears to be good. This is probably attributed to the fact that the operation has been inactive for some time. There is no activity in the mine that would cause sedimentation of the water to occur.

When the mine is reactivated, it will be important that the operator construct a holding facility that will contain the water properly. The BWPC needs to be notified concerning this problem with the Vanadium Queen mine water pond.

I also dropped by a mine very close to the Vanadium Queen called the Blackhat. It is located in the next canyon to the east of the Vanadium Queen. It seems to be in a prime area where vanadium can be mined; however, there has been absolutely no activity at this site for, it appears to be, a number of years.

jb
cc: Steve McNeal, BWPC
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MN4/156